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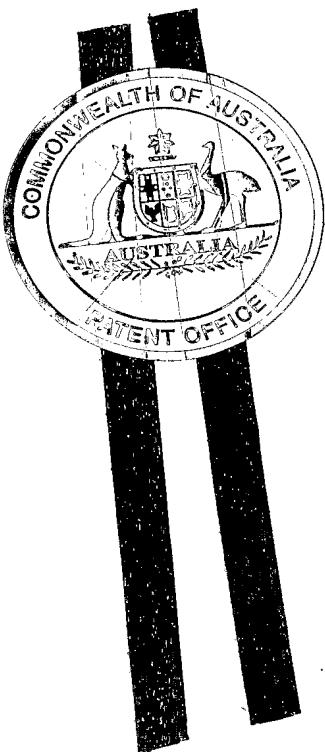
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I, JANENE PEISKER, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2004901355 for a patent by ROSETTA COSMANO as filed on 15 March 2004.

WITNESS my hand this
Twentieth day of April 2005

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AUSTRALIA

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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

APPLICANT: Rosetta Cosmano
NUMBER:
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Invention Title: RE-SEALABLE POCKET

The invention is described in the following statement:-

RE-SEALABLE POCKET

Technical area

This invention relates to the area of plastic pockets for folders and in particular, to a plastic pocket which is re-sealable and adapted to prevent its contents from falling out.

Background to the invention

People have been using plastic pockets to store and protect documents or some other suitable content for many years. These pockets have been made in an array of sizes adapted to provide protection for materials of various sizes, and are further adapted to be carried or stored in typical ring binder folders of differing dimensions.

The problem with these plastic pockets is that not only do the contents tend to move around within the pocket, but often the contents will fall out of the pocket if the pocket and/or folder if they are not kept in an upright position. The standard plastic pocket also fails to provide a means for separating documents or contents within the same particular pocket, to eradicate the need for individual pockets to be used to store separate documents or different materials.

Outline of the invention

It is an object of the present invention to overcome or substantially ameliorate the disadvantages of the prior art by providing a re-sealable pocket for folders, which provides a means for storing and protecting its contents whilst preventing them from falling out.

The invention provides a re-sealable pocket having a first and second opposing panel fixedly connected to each other along a pair of sides and a bottom edge, a plurality of holes provided along a side of the pocket and a closure mechanism provided along a top edge of the pocket whereby the top edge of the pocket can be opened or closed.

It is preferred that the closure mechanism may be a press-lock having male and a female track which are adapted to inter-engage with each other and provide a seal when the two tracks are "pressed" together.

It is preferred that the press-lock mechanism is adapted to be re-sealable.

It is preferred that the re-sealable press-lock pocket may have provided a gusset.

It is further preferred that the re-sealable press-lock pocket may have provided at least one divider located within the pocket.

It is preferred that the material around the or each hole be reinforced to give strength to the pocket.

It is preferred that the pocket be made of a durable transparent material such that the contents are visible to the user.

In order that the invention may be more readily understood we will describe by way of non-limiting example one specific embodiment thereof.

In this embodiment, the re-sealable pocket is made from a plastic material having sufficient durability to withstand stresses applied to the pocket and in particular, to the seams of the pocket, when it is full. It is preferred that the plastic material will be transparent to enable the use to visualise the contents inside however, any other colour or suitable material may be used including a colour coded system which will be discussed later.

The re-sealable pocket is provided with first and second opposing panels that are fixedly connected to each other along a pair of sides and a bottom edge which bridges the pair of side edges, to comprise the body of the pocket. Provided along the top edge of the pocket is a press-lock mechanism adapted to provide a means for sealing the contents inside the pocket.

The press-lock mechanism comprises a male track and a female track. The male track has a male profile and a first outwardly protruding portion, and the female track has a female profile with a second outwardly protruding portion. Both the male and female tracks may be thermally fused to the inner surfaces of their respective first and second panels.

When a user "presses" or applies pressure evenly on either side of the press-lock mechanism at the same point, the male and female tracks become inter-engaged with each other such that the press-lock mechanism is in a closed position and the pocket is sealed. In order to open the re-sealable pocket, the first and second panel are simply pried apart at the mouth of the pocket, the force of which causes the male and female track to disengage from one another allowing the user to gain access to the interior of the pocket.

Along one side of the pocket are provided holes which enable the user to place them in standard ring binder folders. The holes are spaced apart by predetermined lengths such that they are able to fit in folders having different numbers of rings on them, such as a 2-ring, 3-ring, or 4-ring binder folder. It is envisaged that there will be provided a strip of re-

enforcement surrounding the holes to provide support to the pocket so that the pocket will not tear easily through repeated use or access to the pockets while they are in the folders.

The re-sealable pockets may also be of varying dimensions depending on the folder they are adapted to fit into, or the application for which they will be used. It is preferred that the pockets will be slightly larger than the full paper size so that the paper is not bent inside, yet suitable such that the pocket will not protrude outwardly from the outer edges of the folder.

In a second embodiment of the invention, the re-sealable pocket may be provided with a gusset located along the bottom edge of the pocket. It is envisaged that the gusset would be integrally formed with the bottom edge of the pocket and can be made of the same or some other suitable material. The gusset comprises of a series of folds which allows the pocket to expand outwardly so that the pocket is able to accommodate a larger volume more comfortably. In a preferred embodiment it is envisaged that the gusset will comprise at least one inwardly directed fold to create more than one area into which documents can sit within the pocket. Accordingly, the more inwardly directed folds there are, the more separated areas there are provided in which the document can sit.

A further embodiment of the re-sealable pocket could envisage a divider being used in connection with the gusset such that, the pocket is able to provide a permanent separation of contents which are to be kept separate within the pocket. The divider may be integrally formed with the inwardly directed fold and extend upwardly to cover the full length of the pocket. In this way, the contents will remain separate within the pocket in their own individual areas without being able to be mixed up with other contents of the pocket. Alternatively, the dividers may be of differing sizes to better suit the respective sizes of contents placed within the pocket. The dividers may be preferably made of the same material as the pockets however, they can also be made of any other suitable material and/or colour.

The re-sealable pocket may be provided with a colour-coded system which enables the user to readily determine which press-lock pocket is suited to a particular folder. Such a system may involve having at least one strip of a colour, which is the same as that on a corresponding folder, being placed somewhere along the pocket. The number of coloured strips provided on the pocket would be dependent on the design and colours used on the corresponding folders.

The press-lock pocket may also have provided at least one slot or area on the first panel, which is the front of the pocket, to enable a user to insert a form of labelling for the pocket.

Whilst it is preferred that the press-lock pocket have the press-lock mechanism previously described herein, there is no reason why these pocket could not be made with a zipper, Velcro (Registered Trade Mark), or any other suitable means for providing a re-sealable means of closure for the pocket.

While we have described herein particular embodiments of the press-lock pocket, it is envisaged that other embodiments of the invention will exhibit any number of and combination of the features previously described, and it is to be understood that variations and modifications in this can be made without departing from the spirit and scope thereof.

DATED this 15 day of March, 2004

Rosetta Cosmano
By Her Patent Attorneys
A TATLOCK & ASSOCIATES